



USAID | MACEDONIA
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PRESS RELEASE

Skopje hosts showcase for latest business technology

US supported Regional Competitiveness Initiative holds ICT event in Macedonia for the first time

Setting the scene for smaller companies do software development deals with multi-national corporations is the goal of the Expanding Regional IT Competitiveness Conference from May 16 – May 17, 2007. The event is being organized through the Regional Competitiveness Initiative (RCI) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), a part of the US Mission to Macedonia.

“We are pleased that this regional event will be held in Skopje,” said Patricia Rader, USAID Mission Director. “Macedonia is gaining a reputation as a country which is innovative when it comes to ICT, thanks to the wireless network built with the support of USAID and other projects that introduce ICT solutions to business, government and education.”

USAID’s Regional Competitiveness Initiative advances new development strategies (regional sector clusters, corridor clusters, and market chains) and unites the efforts of USAID Missions in the Europe and Eurasia Region for greater impact. Through the creation of “regional communities,” USAID hopes to augment trade and increase employment.

Sessions for small companies (with less than twenty employees) will demonstrate ways of doing business through the internet with multi-national corporations around the world. The conference also will feature presentations by the European Software Institute (Bulgaria), Microsoft (Croatia), and the Regional Broadband Initiative of the Stability Pact (Brussels) and will showcase some of the technology accomplishments of Macedonian firms and institutions.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 25 projects worth \$25 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia’s transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>